## PRESS RELEASE

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## **US Consul General Visits Nejran Region**

At the invitation of His Royal Highness Prince Mishael Bin Saud Bin Abdulaziz, Governor of Nejran, US Consul General Tatiana C. Gfoeller visited the region from March 26 to March 28, 2006. Upon her arrival to Nejran, Gfoeller was welcomed by Prince Mishael, and they discussed various avenues of cooperation between the US mission to the Western Province and his region. The Consul General congratulated Prince Mishael on the ongoing development in the area and offered her continued support for increasing Saudi-American exchanges and strengthening the historic friendship between the US and Saudi Arabia. Following the meeting, Gfoeller toured the various archeological sites in and around Nejran, including Al-Ukhdood and Qasr al-Amara.

On March 28, Consul General Gfoeller met with representatives from the Nejran Chamber of Commerce to discuss commercial development in the region. Gfoeller offered to support the organization of a week of American commercial and cultural events in Nejran, which the Chamber gladly accepted.

Upon her departure, the Consul General reiterated her admiration for the Governor's far-sighted and visionary stewardship of the Nejran region. She expressed her eagerness to return and, in particular, her enthusiasm for the ongoing preservation and excavation of the Al-Ukhdood monument site, which she termed "an inheritance of all mankind."